

10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 05 APR 2002



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of **Confirmation No. 6107**

Hiromu SUGINO **Attn: BOX PCT**

Serial No. 09/831,622 **Docket No. 2001_0559A**

Filed May 11, 2001

NOVEL PROTEIN AND UTILIZATION THEREOF
[Corresponding to PCT/JP99/06275
Filed November 11, 1999]

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

Please amend claims 14, 19 20 and 22 as follows:

14. (Amended) A method for quantifying the protein according to claim 1, the protein according to claim 2, the partial peptide according to claim 6 or a salt thereof, which comprises allowing a test solution containing the protein according to claim 1, the protein according to claim 2, the partial peptide according to claim 6 or a salt thereof and the protein according to claim 1 which is labeled, the protein according to claim 2 which is labeled, the partial peptide according to claim 6 which is labeled or a salt thereof which is labeled to react competitively with the antibody according to claim 13.

19. (Amended) A method for screening a compound or a salt thereof inhibiting or promoting a binding of the protein according to claim 1, the protein according to claim 2, the partial peptide according to claim 6 or a salt thereof to activin receptors or activin intracellular information